

LeRoy enjoyed tremendous success throughout his career, but his biggest accomplishments were in service to others. For the past several decades, he gave much to Habitat for Humanity, through which he formed a unique partnership with former President Jimmy Carter and his wife Rosalynn. Through the Carter Work Project, they built or repaired 4,290 homes in 14 different countries, including 23 in Mishawaka just this past August. His hard work and dedication to Habitat's mission earned him high praise from our 39th President: "He's been a true inspiration to us."

A mark of the fruition of his skill and expertise, LeRoy led the Troyer Group's design and construction of the Ark Encounter in Kentucky. This 510-foot long, 85-foot wide, and 51-foot high, full-size replica of Noah's Ark as described in the Bible is the featured attraction at the biblical theme park. The craftsmanship of this grand structure, a project of great magnitude and meaning, demonstrates LeRoy's ability to bring an architectural dream to life.

LeRoy embodied the best of the Hoosier ethos. He was diligent, industrious, innovative, and generous. And above all, he was devoted to his family and loved his country. I will be forever grateful for his valuable wisdom and foresight when it came to creative building projects and things that would continue to promote growth in our community.

By the grace of God, he was surrounded by family in his last moments. I want to thank Phyllis for all she has done to honor his legacy and comfort their children during this difficult time. Our community will always remember LeRoy for his selflessness and for the passion that drove him to make a real difference in people's lives.

#### CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEGMANS FOOD MARKETS IN CENTRAL NEW YORK

##### HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Wegmans Food Markets 50th anniversary operating in the Syracuse area. Wegmans is a staple throughout Central New York communities and has a long, successful history as a regional supermarket. Since its founding, Wegmans has grown to become an exceptional local business and spans across the Mid-Atlantic area.

Wegmans Food Markets was established in 1916 in Rochester, New York. The supermarket was founded by brothers Walter and John Wegman and was originally known as the Rochester Fruit and Vegetable Company. Initially, the store only sold fresh produce but expanded to include general groceries, baked goods, meats, and dairy products over the next decade and a half. Wegmans rapidly expanded and became a supermarket innovator throughout its early years, featuring new ideas such as larger storefronts, windowed refrigerator displays, and frozen foods.

By 1968, Wegmans was quickly growing throughout New York and the chain opened its first Syracuse area location. This was the first of what is now a 14 store presence in Central New York. Throughout the late 20th century, Wegmans continued to expand its business

lines to include pharmacies, florists, and seafood departments. The company opened larger locations and hired more employees to meet the heightened demand for Wegmans products.

As Wegmans became a stronger business, the company recognized its rising commitment to the communities in which it operated. The family-founded business has always been family-owned, and they strive to support their community through their business. Wegmans has supported several corporate responsibility initiatives since the 1970's, including food bank donations, an employee scholarship program, and contributions to a variety of programs for children in its service areas.

Today, Wegmans Food Markets continues to thrive. The company operates 98 stores in six states, employs 48,000 people, and is consistently listed as an elite company by various business journals. Additionally, Wegmans remains highly active in charitable causes, leading initiatives to reduce hunger, promote healthy diets, and strengthen neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in celebrating Wegmans Food Markets 50th anniversary in Syracuse. Wegmans is vital to the Central New York economy, serving as one of its largest employers, providing food to the region, and giving back to local communities. The company serves as a perfect model for an ideal public-private relationship and I wish them many more years of success in Central New York.

#### HONORING JENNIFER HALLOWELL

##### HON. LUKE MESSER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. MESSER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a former member of my staff, Jennifer Hallowell, for her work in my office and her service to our state.

I've known Jen for more than two decades and during that time, she has become a close friend and trusted adviser. Since our time together at the Indiana State Republican Party, Jen has proven herself to be one of our state's top political minds. There's no doubt that I wouldn't be where I am today with Jen's counsel and help every step of the way.

On a personal note, Jen is a talented leader and loyal friend. She has already impacted our state in extraordinary ways. But, I am certain that her biggest impact is yet to come.

I want to thank Jen for her friendship and dedication to our work. I wish her and her husband, Kyle, continued success in all that God has planned for their family.

#### RECOGNIZING JUDGE LOYD NEAL'S DEDICATION TO THE NATION AND HIS COMMUNITY

##### HON. MICHAEL CLOUD

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the service of a truly extraordinary individual that served his community through decades of commitment to the

people, bettering it through his efforts: Nueces County Judge Loyd Neal.

Judge Neal was elected Nueces County Judge in November 2006, taking office January 2, 2007, as the first Republican elected to this office in over 140 years. In November 2010, Judge Neal was re-elected to his second term starting January 2011.

Loyd Neal was born in Henderson, Texas and graduated from Paris High School in 1955. He received his BBA in Marketing from Texas A&M University College Station in 1959 and his MBA from Texas A&M in 1973. While attending A&M, Neal served as a member of the Corps of Cadet.

Neal is married to the former Thetis Ann King and they have two children. The first is Loyd Neal III, a 1984 graduate of Texas A&M University College Station and St. Mary's University Law School who is currently practicing law in Houston, Texas. The second, daughter Ann Margaret, a 1986 graduate of Texas A&M University College Station who earned a master's degree from Southwest Texas University. She is currently teaching school in Boerne, Texas.

In 1989, Neal retired as a Colonel from the Army Reserve, after serving more than thirty years in the active Army and Army Reserve. During this time, he commanded several units in South Texas, including the U.S. Army Reserve Battalion, Corpus Christi; U.S. Army Reserve Support Group in San Marcos; with his terminal assignment as Chief of Staff, 377th Theater Army Area Command, New Orleans, Louisiana. While on active duty, Judge Neal attended both Airborne and Ranger School, graduating from both the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, and the U.S. Army War College. In 1992, Loyd was named a Distinguished Alumnus by Texas A&M University for his service to his City, his State, and his Country.

He served as Chairman of the South Texas Military Facilities Task Force, was appointed by Governor George W. Bush to the Texas Strategic Military Planning Commission in 1997 and was re-appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Military Preparedness Commission in 2005. Judge Neal has also served in numerous volunteer leadership positions in the Corpus Christi area including serving as the Chairman for the Corpus Christi Economic Development Corp, the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, the Art Museum of South Texas, South Texas Homeport Committee, the Leadership Corpus Christi Alumni, and President of the Corpus Christi Navy League, to name a few.

It is with the utmost honor and respect that I wish Judge Neal, and his family, a very joyful retirement and thank him for his service. I urge my fellow members of Congress to applaud him for his dedication to serving our communities and for his commitment to ensuring a better life for all.

#### IN APPRECIATION OF THE SERVICE OF SHELLIE BRESSLER

##### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 6, 2018*

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee staff, Shellie Bressler, who is marking 28 years of Federal Government